

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the following paragraph before the first paragraph on page 1:

This is a continuation of U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/856,411, filed May 17, 2001, now abandoned, which in turn is a U.S. national stage of International Application No. PCT/JP99/06408, filed on November 17, 1999, which claims priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 10-343596 filed on November 17, 1998 and Japanese Patent Application No. 10-369138 filed on December 25, 1998, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.